



September 29, 2015

The Honorable Representative Peter Pettalia
Michigan House of Representative
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Dear Representative Pettalia,

I am writing to express AAA's concern with House Bills 4423, 4424, 4425, 4426 and 4427 which seek to modify Michigan's speed limit laws.

AAA is not philosophically opposed to speed increases in areas where conditions, road characteristics and engineering studies have shown that drivers can safely travel at a higher speed. When maximum speed limits are correctly set and applied, they improve mobility, motorist safety and respect for the law. With that being said, many factors must be taken into consideration before an increase in speed is warranted. Our major concern with blanket increases beyond 70 mph, like those included in the bill package, is that a speed increase is put in place without the necessary studies. We believe the following needs to be looked at before an increase in speed is implemented:

1. Prevailing speeds and current traffic flow as determined by traffic engineering measurements,
2. Accident reports,
3. Design study of the highway, traffic, vehicle and roadside development, characteristics (i.e. hills and curvature of the roadway and distance of visibility),
4. Number of access and exit points (i.e. driveways and intersections), and
5. Interaction between vehicles and pedestrians.

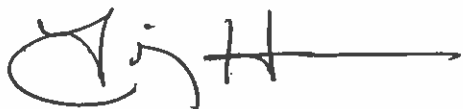
AAA also takes the position that looking at the 85th percentile alone is not an effective measure of what the appropriate speed limit should be. While the 85th percentile is a factor that should be considered, it is not the most important factor. Design speed of the roadway, road characteristics and the driving capabilities of different types of drivers (i.e. new teen drivers and senior drivers) are key in determining a safe and reasonable speed limit.

AAA is not opposed to allowing local road agencies, in conjunction with the State Police, to determine how each road is defined but we do not want a patchwork of different speed limits between local communities. A consistent limit based on scientific study is important.

House Bill 4427, which would exclude any violation of 5 mph or less over the speed limit from appearing on a motor vehicle record, is a major concern. A motor vehicle record is meant to accurately reflect the driving record of that individual. Insurance companies use that driving record to determine what kind of risk that driver possesses and then rates an insurance premium based on that driving record. An incomplete and inaccurate driving record prevents us from accurately establishing insurance policy premiums.

I would encourage the Committee to consider the concerns I have outlined earlier and make appropriate modifications to the bills. I look forward to working with the Chairman and bill sponsors to address AAA Michigan's concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tiffany Hauser', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Tiffany Hauser
Legislative Consultant
Government Relations
AAA Michigan

cc: House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Members